

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 02575 201613Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05
IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FPC-01 EB-07 INT-05 OES-06 /083 W
----- 068715 /41

R 201425Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3905
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2575

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, GY, VE
SUBJECT: GOV AID OFFER TO GUYANA

REF: GEORGETOWN 2532

1. DURING COURSE OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN CHARGE AND
ACTING MFA PERMANENT SECRETARY LLOYD SEARWAR ON DEC. 18,
CHARGE ASKED WITH SOME PUZZLEMENT WHETHER GOV HAD OFFERED
MASSIVE AID TO GUYANA AND SECONDLY, WAS THE GOG RELUCTANT
TO ACCEPT AID OFFER. SEARWAR REPLIED THAT GOV HAD MADE A
SERIOUS OFFER TO ASSIST GUYANA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
UPPER MAZARUNI-CUYUNI RIVER BASIN AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC
POWER PROJECT. HOWEVER, GOG HAD TO CAREFULLY WEIGH ALL
ITS OPTIONS IN THIS MATTER SINCE AID OFFER INVOLVED LONG-
RANGE IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE GOG-GOV RELATIONS. SEARWAR
SAID GOG IS AWARE THAT FASTEST GROWING REGION IN VENEZUELA
BORDERS ON GUYANA, AND AREA TO BE DEVELOPED IN
GUYANA WAS LARGELY UNINHABITED. SHOULD THE
VENEZUELANS COME IN LARGE NUMBERS TO ASSIST ON THE
PROJECT, GUYANESE COULD WAKE UP ONE MORNING AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 02575 201613Z

FIND THAT THEIR BORDER HAD SHIFTED APPRECIABLY TO
THE EAST. THEREFORE, GOG WAS VERY CAREFULLY
LOOKING AT ALL ASPECTS OF THE OFFER.

2. CHARGE ALSO DISCUSSED AID OFFER BRIEFLY WITH
VENEZUELAN SECOND SECRETARY ALTUVE ON DEC. 17.

ALTUVE EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE WITH THE GUYANESE BECAUSE OF THEIR RELUCTANCE TO BOTH PUBLICIZE AND ACCEPT AID OFFER. HE SAID HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT IN PARTICULAR WOULD GREATLY ASSIST VENEZUELA EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE INVOLVED IN A MASSIVE HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT OF THEIR OWN. ALTUVE CONTINUED THAT CHEAP POWER IS AN EXTREMELY USEFUL COMMODITY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. FURTHERMORE, IF THE GUYANESE SOMEHOW DEVELOP THIS PROJECT ON THEIR OWN, WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO WITH ALL THE POWER IN ORDER TO MAKE THEIR HEAVY INVESTMENT FEASIBLE? ALTUVE CONSIDERS THEIR ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO SELL POWER TO VENEZUELA. ALTUVE ADMITTED GUYANESE APPARENT RELUCTANCE ON THIS MATTER STEMS PRIMARILY FROM BORDER DISPUTE AND GUYANESE HOPES THAT SOMEHOW THEY WILL ARRANGE ALTERNATE FINANCING FROM SOME OTHER DONOR. ALTUVE THEN REMARKED IF THEY THINK THEY ARE GOING TO GET ANY LARGE SCALE AID FOR THAT PROJECT FROM ANYONE OTHER THAN VENEZUELA, THEY ARE SADLY MISTAKEN. ALTUVE DID SAY THOUGH THAT AMBASSADOR MARQUEZ HAD RECEIVED ORDERS FROM PRESIDENT PEREZ TO PUBLICIZE THE OFFER EVEN THOUGH GOG HAD NOT AGREED TO DO SO IN ORDER TO BRING MATTER OUT IN THE OPEN AND FORCE THE GUYANESE TO COME TO A DECISION SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD THAT BURNHAM PLANS TO ACCEPT VENEZUELAN AID OFFER WITHIN NEXT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GEORGE 02575 201613Z

THREE TO FOUR MONTHS. HE WILL UTILIZE INTERIM PERIOD TO LAY GROUNDWORK WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT HERE TO ACCEPT OFFER.
MCCOY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GEORGE02575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760467-0131
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761229/aaaaayqi.tel
Line Count: 101
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GEORGETOWN 2532
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOV AID OFFER TO GUYANA
TAGS: EAID, GY, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006